

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for applying business rules on a computer application to data, comprising the steps:

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defining a set of business rules, each of the rules determining the validity of data in an associated, defined computer application;

storing the rules on a table;

for each rule,

invoking the rule at the occurrence of each of a defined set of operations on the data,

identifying a predetermined trigger condition for the rule, and

processing the rule if the predetermined trigger condition is satisfied.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identifying step includes the steps of:

identifying at least one data value;

identifying a trigger value; and

identifying an operator indicating how the data value will be compared to the trigger value.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of applying business rules in a computer application to data, comprising the steps:

defining a set of business rules, each of the rules determining the validity of data in an associated, defined computer application;

storing the rules on a table;

for each rule[,];

invoking the rule at the occurrence of each of a defined set of operations on the data[,];

identifying a predetermined trigger condition for the rule[,];

invoking a predefined method if the trigger condition is partially satisfied[,]; and

using the method to determine a final result of the rule.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for managing business rules in a computer application for data, comprising the steps:

establishing a set of business rules, each of the rules including a trigger condition and a process, and each of the rules determining the validity of data in an associated, defined computer application;

storing the rules in a table;

performing a predefined operation on the data;

checking all the rules in the table to determine if any are invoked by the predefined operation;

for each rule that is invoked, determining whether the trigger condition of the rule is satisfied;
and

for each rule the trigger condition of which is satisfied, implementing the process of the rule.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

running an application using the data; and

changing any of the business rules without recompiling or reinstalling the application.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step, upon rule failure, defining a message and help for each rule using visual programming techniques.

97 7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step, upon rule execution, adding the help and message to an error message list.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for managing business rules for data in a computer application, comprising:

means for establishing a set of business rules, each of the rules including a trigger condition and a process, and each of the rules determining the validity of data in an associated, defined computer application;

a table for storing the rules;

means for performing predefined operation on the data;

means for checking all the rules in the table to determine if any are invoked by the predefined operation;

means for determining, for each rule that is invoked, whether the trigger condition of the rule is satisfied; and

means for implementing the process of each rule, the trigger condition of which is satisfied.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

means for running an application using the data; and

means for changing any of the business rules without recompiling or reinstalling the application.

10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for managing business rules in a computer application for data, said method steps comprising:

establishing a set of business rules, each of the rules including a trigger condition and a process, and each of the rules determining the validity of data in an associated, defined computer application;

storing the rules in a table;

performing a predefined operation on the data;

checking all the rules in the table to determine if any are invoked by the predefined operation;

for each rule that is invoked, determining whether the trigger condition of the rule is satisfied;
and

for each rule the trigger condition of which is satisfied, implementing the process of the rule.

11. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 10, wherein said method steps further comprise:

running an application using the data; and

changing any of the business rules without recompiling or reinstalling the application.

12. (New) A method according to Claim 4, wherein each rule specifies the conditions under which the rule is invoked.

13. (New) A method according to Claim 4, comprising the further step of changing the business rules, wherein said changing does not require any changes to the associated application.

14. (New) A method according to Claim 4, comprising the further steps of:

providing a list of subtriggers; and

creating the trigger for each rule from the list of subtriggers.